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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

84- 9883/1

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9 November 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Nicaragua -- The Military Build-up Since July 1979

1. In response to your request this morning, the attached chart, representing what we know about subject build-up, is forwarded for your use.

2. You will note that a column on the estimated value of military construction is not included. Data of this sort is not readily available, and it would take considerable time to attempt to make such estimates. A separate paragraph on the estimated value of airport construction has, however, been provided since that information was available, and it will provide an idea of the kinds of costs incurred.

3. A separate chart providing unclassified information is not included. The Nicaragua White Paper of July 1984 represents the Community's most systematic effort to declassify and round off figures related to military growth. That paper does not, however, provide the kind of chronological information you might want; nor does it provide the degree of specificity requested. In order to arrive at such figures for public consumption, there should be a Community effort comparable to that which occurred in the development of the original White Paper.

4. If there are any questions on this chart, or any further questions on this general subject, please feel free to contact [redacted] (Chief, Nicaraguan Task Force) or one of the Task Force members on duty

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Attachment:
As Stated

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*We have no current estimate for the total value of military construction in Nicaragua. The calculation of such a figure would entail an extensive, time-consuming review of our files. Nevertheless, some sense of proportion probably can be derived from an overview of a sector such as airfield construction. A baseline value for construction costs at the new Punta Huete airfield probably would be comparable to the Point Salines airport in Grenada, currently estimated at some \$80 million dollars. Of course, structural differences such as revetments at Punta Huete versus the terminal at Point Salines make some costs variable. The total value of the other airfield projects in Nicaragua may approach the Point Salines' figure, meaning that total airport construction in Nicaragua is in the range of \$150-200 million dollars.

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NICARAGUA--THE MILITARY BUILDUP SINCE JULY 1979

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	# Forces	# Tanks	# Other Armored Vehicles	# Aircraft/Helicopters	# New/Expanded Airfields	# Anti-aircraft Guns/Missiles	# Electronic & Communications Equipment
Current Situation	48,000-53,000 ^a 47,000-62,000 ^b	110-115 T 54/55s 25-26 PT 76s	180 APCs 6 Heavy Tank Ferries	6-7 AN-2s 2 AN-26s 3 T-33's 4 MI-24s 9-11 MI-8s 5-6 MI-2s 6 Other Helos	The following airfields will have runways of at least 2,000 meters: Puerto Cabezas Bluefields La Rosita Punta Huete	80-370 SA-7*** 170 anti-aircraft (AAA) guns	Enough equipment for 4 early-warning/Intercept Sites
Buildup Since June '84**			24 BTR-152s 8 BRDM-2s	3 MI-8s 4 MI-24s			2 spoon Rest radars 2 Bar Lock radars
Annual Rate 7/19-12/31/79	App 6,000 ^a Full-time Guerrillas 17,000 ^a						
1980						30 AAA guns, 18 SA-7s	
1981	15,000-20,000 ^a 50,000 ^b	25 T-55s	13 APCs	6 AN-2s 2 MI-8s	Puerto Cabezas, Bluefields, La Rosita expansion began	63 various types of AAA guns	
1982	15,000-20,000 ^a 50,000 ^b	22 T-55s		1 MI-8 4 SF-260s 3-4 MI-2s 2 Alouettes		46 AAA guns 12 SA-7	1 Full House HF/DF
1983	25,000 + ^a 50,000-80,000 ^b		1 BTR-50 45 BTR-152s 8 T54s 13 BRDM-2s	1 AN-2 3 MI-2 2 AN-26 8 MI-8	Punta Huete construction began	36 AAA guns	1 Full House HF/DF 1 Bar Lock 2 Odd Pair
1984 To 11/1	48,000-53,000 ^a 47,000-62,000 ^b	25 PT-76s 25 T-55s 41 T-55s	16 BRDM-2s 3 BTR-60s 39 BTR-152s 24 BTR-152s 8 BRDM-2s	3 MI-8 4 MI-24		12 37-mm AAA guns 6 57-mm AAA guns	1 Thin Skin radar 3 Flat Face radar 2 Full House HF/DF 2 R-123 transceiver 2 Spoon Rest radars 2 Bar Lock radars 1 Flap Wheel

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* These figures represent rough estimates based on available evidence/report.
 ** Also included below in Annual Rate for 1984.

***DIA Analysis indicates over 300 SA-7s in the Nicaraguan inventory.

^a Active Duty
^b Unmobilized Reserves and Militias

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